

MARCH, 1870.

\$1.50 a Year, in Advance.

# THE AMERICAN FARMER:

A  
MONTHLY MAGAZINE

OF  
Agriculture, Horticulture, Rural

AND  
HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY.

THE OLDEST AGRICULTURAL PUBLICATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

ESTABLISHED 1819.

PUBLISHED BY  
**FRANK LEWIS,**  
No. 4 SOUTH STREET, NEAR BALTIMORE STREET,  
**BALTIMORE, Md.**

PRINTED BY JAMES YOUNG, 114 BALTIMORE ST.

# WM. CRICHTON & SON'S AMMONIATED SOLUBLE SUPER-PHOSPHATE OF LIME.

Containing 50 per cent. of BONE PHOSPHATES—of which 12 per cent. is immediately SOLUBLE in Water—3 per cent. of Ammonia, 3 per cent. of Potash, 17 per cent. of Sulphate of Lime, Magnesia, &c., &c.

FURNISHING THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF  
WHEAT, CORN, TOBACCO, COTTON, and of all CEREALS  
which are removed from the soil in every crop.

## EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS.

CULBERTSON, GA., Nov. 13th., 1880.  
This year I have experimented with ten different fertilizers of the most popular brands—and "Wm. Crichton & Son's Ammoniated Soluble Super-Phosphate of Lime" is at present only equalled by two of the manures. I am not quite through picking, but there is so little yet to be picked that it will not materially alter the above statement or result. I can without hesitation recommend this fertilizer to planters as a No. 1 Cotton Manure.  
JNO. L. CULVER.

MACON, GA., November 20th., 1880.  
I used one ton of Wm. Crichton & Son's Ammoniated Super-Phosphate of Lime on five acres. I am well satisfied with its results on Cotton. It is a first-class fertilizer and I can recommend it with great confidence. From the well known reputation of the manufacturers, I am certain it can be relied upon for uniformity. H. T. JOHNSON,  
Of Johnson, Campbell & Co., Macon, Ga.

ANNAPOLIS JUNCTION, Md., July 31, 1880.  
"I used the Ammoniated Super Phosphates, manufactured by you, with the greatest success on my wheat and vegetable garden.  
I planted corn with it last May, and from present appearances it will not be surpassed by any in my county. I prefer your combination of Plant Food to Peruvian Guano, even at same cost."  
A. P. GORMAN.

LAUREL FACTORY, Md., July 15, 1880.  
Your "Ammoniated Super-Phosphate," of which Miss M. O. Turner purchased three tons, has acted very well and satisfactory on her farm. We tried it on corn, oats and potatoes, and the crops all look fine wherever it was applied.  
CHARLES SCHROEDER,  
Supt. for Miss M. O. Turner.

REIDSVILLE, Spartanburg Co., S. C., Dec. 29, 1880.  
In reply to your enquiry regarding Wm. Crichton & Son's Ammoniated Fertilizer, sent to me last spring, I can give my own and Mr. J. M. Fowler's experiments. I tried it on Cotton, side by side with Peruvian Guano—costing \$112 per ton—and in the same quantity, and the difference was considerable, being in favor of this Fertilizer. The Cotton grew from two to three inches taller, and was bolted in proportion.  
Mr. Fowler, one of our best farmers, and closest and most accurate observers, told me he tried Peruvian Guano and six or seven others, the cheapest of which cost \$40 per ton, and Crichton's Fertilizer beat them all.  
W. B. CARSON.

CHARLESTON, S. C., January 1st, 1870.  
Respecting the merits of the Ammoniated Soluble Super-Phosphate of Lime which I used last season upon my Cotton lands, I would state that it has exceeded my expectations, its application having been attended with the most favorable results. I used it in connection with the popular Phosphates of the day and Peruvian Guano, and unhesitatingly give the preference to Messrs. Wm. Crichton & Son's Ammoniated Super-Phosphate, which I regard as the best fertilizer for Cotton that has been offered to the public.  
THEO. G. BOAG.

PAW PAW, Morgan Co., W. Va., June 27, 1880.  
I applied your Fertilizer on oats and corn in the springs, using about 200 pounds per acre on each, (stiff clay land.) The oats will double, I think, while the corn I never saw anything to equal it.  
I planted about 10th of May, using a handful to two hills of corn, and after it started it seemed incredible to see it grow. It is now waist high, while on a highly manured piece of land by its side it is not over six inches.  
N. N. CLABAUGH.

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These seeds are carefully selected and warranted to be as represented:

	per Bushel.	Peck.	Quart.
Wheat.....	\$4.00	\$2.00	\$1.00
Rye.....	3.50	1.75	1.00
Oats.....	5.00	2.00	1.00

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LASSING'S PATENT IMPROVED MODE OF PREPARING SEEDS. This patent powder protects all kinds of Seeds from vermin and birds and fertilizes after planting, and costs \$2 per pound, which is sufficient for 2 bushels of seed. State, County and Town rights for sale.  
Send by Express to all parts of the country on receipt of price. Send for circular containing valuable information to farmers.

AARON MASKER,  
Perth Amboy, N. J.

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SKIN DISEASES,  
General Bad Health, &c.

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# AMERICAN FARMER

Established 1819,  
BY  
JOHN S. SKINNER,  
BALTIMORE, MD.

AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, RURAL AND HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY.

"O FORTUNATOS NIMIUM SUA SI BONA NORINT  
AGRICOLAS." VIRGIL.

SEVENTH SERIES.

MARCH, 1870.

VOL. I.—No. 3.

## A MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

N. B. WORTHINGTON... *Agricultural Editor.*  
FRANK LEWIS... *Publisher.*

No. 4 SOUTH STREET, Baltimore, Md.

\$1.50 A YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

THE OLDEST AGRICULTURAL PUBLICATION IN  
THE UNITED STATES.

## NOTICES.

Agents wanted in all sections of the country to canvass for the *American Farmer*. A liberal discount will be allowed.  
Parties who wish to purchase any description of articles, at lowest prices and from reliable parties, would do well to avail themselves of our Business Agency, which does not charge subscribers any commission for purchasing.

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## Baltimore Markets, Feb. 22, 1869.

COFFEE.—Rio, 14½a15½ cts., gold, according to quality; Laguayra 16a18½ cts., and Java 22a23½ cts., gold.

COTTON.—We quote prices as follows, viz:

Grades.	Upland.	Gulf.
Ordinary.....	23 a—	00
Good do.....	23½ a—	00
Low Middling.....	24½ a24¾	00
Middling.....	24¾ a—	00

FERTILIZERS.—Peruvian Guano, \$55a—; California, \$70; Rodonda Island, \$30; Patapasco Company's, \$60; Reese & Co's Soluble Pacific Guano, \$60; Navassa Guano, \$30; Chesapeake Guano, \$30; Flour of Bone, \$60; G. Ober's (Kettlewells) AA Manipulated, \$70; A. do, \$60; Ammoniated Alkaline Phosphate, \$55; Alkaline Phos, \$45; Baltimore City Company's Fertilizer, \$40; do, Flour of Bone, \$60; do, Ground Bone, \$45; do, Poudrette, \$25; Baugh's Raw-bone Phosphate, \$50; Baugh's Chicago Bone Fertilizer, \$45; Baugh's Chicago Blood Manure, \$45; Maryland Powder of Bone, \$45; Rhodes' Super-Phosphate, \$50; Rhodes' Orchilla Guano, \$30; Lister's Bone Super-Phosphate \$55; Berger & Butz's Super-Phosphate of Lime, \$50; Andrew Coe's Super-Phosphate of Lime, \$50; Zell's Raw Bone Phosphate, \$50; Zell's Super-Phosphate of Lime, \$50—all per ton of 2,000 lbs.; Rath's Challenge Soluble Phosphate, \$60; Whann's Raw Bone Phosphate, \$50. Pure Ground Plaster, \$14.75 per ton, or \$2.25 per bbl. Shell Lime slaked, 6c., unslaked, 10c. per bushel, at kilns.

FLOUR.—Howard Street Super, \$4.75a5.00; High Grades, \$5.50a5.75; Family, \$6.25a7.00; City Mills Super, \$5.00a5.75; Baltimore Family, \$5.75.

Rye Flour and Corn Meal.—Rye Flour, \$4.50a5.00; Corn Meal, \$4.75.

GRAIN.—Wheat.—Good to prime Red, \$1.23a1.27;

White, \$1.35a1.40.

Rye.—\$1.00a1.05 per bushel.

Oats.—Heavy to light—ranging as to character from 52a54c. per bushel.

Corn.—White, \$0.94a0.97; Yellow, \$0.92a0.96 per bushel.

HAY AND STRAW.—Timothy \$22a23, and Rye Straw \$22 a— per ton.

PROVISIONS.—Bacon.—Shoulders, 12a12½ cts.; Sides, 15a16 cts.; Hams, 15a16 cts. per lb.

SALT.—Liverpool Ground Alum, \$1.70a1.80; Fine, \$2.50 a\$2.70 per sack; Turk's Island, 50 cts. per bushel.

SEEDS.—Timothy \$4.50a4.75; Clover \$5.50a6.00; Flax \$2.25.

TOBACCO.—We give the range of prices as follows:

Maryland.

Frosted to common..... \$5.00a 5.50

Sound common..... 7.00a 8.00

Middling..... 9.50a11.00

Good to fine brown..... 11.50a15.00

Fancy..... 17.00a30.00

Upper country..... 7.00a35.00

Ground leaves, new..... 5.00a11.00

Ohio.

Inferior to good common..... 4.00a 6.00

Brown and greenish..... 6.00a 8.00

Medium to fine red and spangled..... 9.00a12.00

Fine spangled..... 12.00a25.00

Fine yellow and fancy..... 30.00a40.00

Wool.—We quote: Unwashed, 30a33 cts.; Tub-washed, 40a51 cts.; Pulled 30a33 cts.; Fleece 40a45 cts. per lb.

CATTLE MARKET.—Common, \$4.00a5.00; Good to fair, \$5.00a6.00; Prime Beeves, \$5.00a5.75 per 100 lbs.

SHEEP.—Fair to good, 5a8 cts. per lb., gross.

HOGS.—\$13.25a14.25 per 100 lbs., net.

## Wholesale Produce Market.

Prepared for the *American Farmer* by HENRY & CO., Produce and Commission Merchants, 67 Exchange Place.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 21, 1869.

BUTTER.—Western solid packed 18a30 cts.; Roll 25a32, Glades 25a45; New York 35a45; Franklin street 20a30 cts.

BREXWAX—35a40 cts.

CHEESE.—Eastern, 17a19; Western, 17 cts.

DRYED FRUIT.—Apples, 8a9; Peaches, 8a15.

EGGS—25 cents per dozen.

FEATHERS.—Live Geese, — to — cents.

LARD.—Western, 17; City rendered, 18 cts.

TALLOW.—10a11 cents.

POTATOES.—60a70 per bushel.

## NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Fertilizers—Wm. Crichton & Son.  
Geo. Dugdale.  
John S. Reese & Co.  
Geo. M. Wanson.  
Lester Bros.  
Implements and Machinery—Geo. Page & Son.  
Denmead & Sons.  
Allen & Co.  
John Saul.  
Nurseries, Plants, Seed, &c.—Eliwanger & Barry.  
Wm. S. Little.  
Jas. J. H. Gregory.  
Aaron Masker.  
J. S. & H. Palmer.  
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H. F. Crowell.  
Stock, Poultry, &c.—Thos. B. Smith & Co.  
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Books, Catalogues, &c.—G. & C. Merriam.  
James Vick.  
Curtis & Cobb.  
Wm. Parry.  
Zeigler, McCurdy & Co.  
Silver Tongue, N. Y.  
Farmers' Gazette—S. B. French.  
Subscription Agency—Hanna & Lewis.  
Koskoo—Dr. J. J. Lawrence.  
Agents Wanted—Secomb & Co.

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Implements,  
Machinery,  
Trees, Plants  
And Seeds,

And other articles required by Farmers and  
Planters,  
WITHOUT CHARGE OF COMMISSION  
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Having no personal interest whatever in any of the above mentioned, we are enabled to make unbiased selection, and we will purchase from such sources only as are believed to be entirely reliable.

Purchases made for CASH only, and orders must be accompanied by a remittance to cover cost. Address:

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No. 4 South street, Baltimore.

## Agricultural.

### MARCH.

"Be patient, swains; these cruel-seeming winds  
Blow not in vain. Far hence they keep repressed  
Those deepening clouds on clouds, sarcharged with rain,  
That, o'er the vast Atlantic hither borne,  
In endless train, would quench the summer blaze,  
And, cheerless, drown the crude, unripened year."

### Work for the Month.

March opens to us the working season proper. During winter, we, our teams, and our lands have rested alike, and start with new vigor and new life on another year's course of work. So it is with the millions of workers throughout our wide spreading territory, the product of whose labours, under the favour of Providence, will be thousands of millions of money's worth. The first of the great works of the field is the ground-work of breaking up for the leading crops.

#### PLOUGHING.

The mild and open winter has perhaps put forward this work largely, and leaves the spring operations much lightened. There is the less excuse, therefore, for any imperfect work, and the best opportunity of doing what remains to be done, as it should be done. In heavy sod land of any kind, three horses to the plough should be used, and seven inches of depth should be the least we ought to be satisfied with in other than exceptional cases.

That, for summer growing crops, a deep soil is a leading requirement, can hardly be questioned. These, in the excessive heat and drought of our mid-summer, must suffer and fall short, if they want the relief which comes of the moisture and coolness that depth of tillage affords. Our great Indian corn crop especially, with a depth of soil from eight to twelve inches on which its all-pervading roots could find pasture, would hardly feel the summer's excesses, but would luxuriate in them rather.

In this work it may be said, if anywhere, "the eye of the master is worth both his hands," notwithstanding it is said that "he who by the plough would thrive, himself must either hold or drive." Rather than either, let him see—see after the strength of his team—see after their gearing—see to the kind of plough—and then see after the ploughman; that he knows his business and is faithful to it.

The first ploughing on the tobacco farm should be for that crop, except that always when oats are to be sown the necessary use of the team must be yielded to that crop, the earliest time the state of the ground will allow its use. For tobacco the sod is to be turned so that the sod will be quite smothered, and no growth allowed at the seams. If necessary to ensure this, the drag must be used. Once turned down, it must lie so for the season and the manuring and other working be done on top.

#### SPRING GRAIN.

Oats and Barley will be sown on such ground as was last year cultivated in some cleansing crop, but which is too light or otherwise unsuitable for wheat. Oats will not en-

dure very heavy manuring, being liable to fall, but barley may be so abundantly fertilized that what it leaves may be sufficient for a good crop of wheat. Clover seed being usually sown with these, except under a rotation that makes wheat follow oats or barley, there should be at least a hundred weight of some good superphosphate, some on the surface when the seeds are sown and in immediate contact with them. Sow at the very earliest time that the ground may be in order, ploughing in the seed with a very light furrow, and sowing on the surface clover and grass seeds and the fertilizer, to be followed by a heavy roller.

If clover seed have not yet been sown on the wheat, wait till the frost be well out of the ground, leaving it cracked and open.—Sow the seed and roll. This implement breaks the surface crust into fine mould and covers the seed sufficiently. Six quarts of seed to the acre is not too much. The cost is very abundantly returned on any land capable of bringing a good crop, but it is wasteful to sow it otherwise.

#### ORCHARD GRASS.

Where pasture grass for some years' standing, or where good mowing to keep time with the clover is wanted, sow orchard grass seeds at the same time and on the same ground with the clover seed. It makes hay little inferior to timothy, if not allowed to get too ripe. It starts very early in spring, endures drought well, grows late in fall, makes a large aftermath, bears close grazing—indeed makes more and better pasturage for being closely cropped. A bushel of seed to the acre is the usual quantity when sown with other seeds, and double that to make quite sure of a thick-set turf.

#### TOBACCO SEED.

The tobacco beds, if not sown, should have prompt attention and the seed be put in as heretofore advised.

#### CROP OF TOBACCO.

Look now carefully after the crop in the bulks, and when found to be getting very soft within and approximating fermentation, shake every bundle out and lay in bulks of two courses or hang up in the house for thorough drying, before it is put down again in large bulks for packing.

Continue the stripping and get all in readiness for the early market.

#### STOCK.

Stock of every kind, but especially those that are having young or approaching that period, need watchful looking after.

### The Vegetable Garden.

**Hot Beds.**—If these have not been made for raising Tomato, Egg Plants, &c., let there be no further delay. Whenever the ground may be in condition to be worked, preparation must be made for the main spring and summer crops. In the garden at least, which should be a model of high farming, there should be deep cultivation, thorough drainage, and abundant manuring. The most expensive manuring will avail little on soil where excess of water does not pass freely away.

**Asparagus Beds.**—These must not be dug so

deeply as to endanger the young shoots, but forked lightly, and sown with salt enough to show well on the surface. Seeds for a new supply of plants should be sown in drills in rich beds.

**Cabbage.**—Raise the old stalks or remove them to make greens from the young sprouts. Set out the best heads for seed. Plant out new crop for summer use from fall sowing.

**Cauliflowers.**—These, if you have them under glass, will be growing now. Remove the glass in warm weather and give them the benefit of the showers, but cover at night. Towards the end of the month prepare to set out the plants.

**Celery.**—If celery be wanted for early use, sow seed now, though, for winter supply, the first of May is early enough.

**Lettuce.**—Towards the end of the month plant out on a warm border strong plants that have been wintered in frames. Sow seeds for a succession of crops.

**Onions.**—Plant out "buttons" or "sets" for the early crop. Sow seeds of the "yellow Danvers" and large red for fall crop.

**Potatoes.**—For early crop plant without delay. Work the crop well and deep,—lay the set well in the furrow, and cover if practicable with litter of some sort laid immediately over the sets, and draw the earth on this not too deeply.

**Rhubarb.**—New plantations of this may be made now. Have for it, deep, rich soil, manure heavily and plant roots of good varieties.

**Radish.**—Sow on warm borders, early short top and red turnip varieties.

**Peas.**—Sow without delay. Carter's "first-crop" and "Daniel O'Rourke" are good early sorts.

**Parsnips.**—Sow for the main crop, on good, deep, rich soil, as early as practicable. A superabundance may be raised—any excess serving admirably for the milch-cow.

**Carrots.**—Sow a few seeds for early table use.

**Parsley.**—Sow seeds of the double curled—clean and work well the ground between the rows planted last summer.

**Spinach.**—Sow on rich soil for succession if wanted. Cultivate between the rows to keep down weeds, and to prevent the plants running to seed.

THE ACTUAL VALUE OF COWS.—The American Stock Journal, in reference to the subject, says:

Now, we can go into a dairying neighborhood, and point to farmers who are losing from two to three thousand dollars by keeping cows yielding two hundred pounds of butter per year, instead of those that would yield from five to six hundred pounds in the same time. How many dairymen can tell the relative value of each cow of his herd by actual test? There is a little instrument for this purpose that don't cost much, but very few dairymen know anything about it. It is called a "lactometer," constructed by placing a number of glass tubes, of equal length and diameter, in a wooden frame. The milk from each cow is placed in some of these glass tubes; there they stand side by side, and you can see the depth of cream that rises in each tube, representing a certain cow, and estimating her value thereby.



### Gypsum.

As the time approaches for spring manuring, and as gypsum especially should be used in early Spring, we may call attention to its quality and uses as a fertilizer. That it should be used freely wherever its peculiar action is effective, is determined by the very small application needed, and its cheapness therefore, under ordinary circumstances. We do not hear much of the marvelous effects produced by the merest dusting, as were produced in the earlier days of its use, yet there is no reason to doubt that on such soils and in such latitudes as it has heretofore acted, it still acts well, and especially on clover and crops of that kind. When first introduced Gypsum (Sulphate of Lime) was as striking in its effects as in later years guano has been, and excited as much interest in the agricultural community. If it has not ceased to operate, if the land has not "tired" of it, if the fields from the very small dressings from year to year bestowed upon them, have not laid up in store for many years the elements which it supplies, the effects may not be so apparent, but there is reason to believe they are abundantly paying. There are also perhaps extensive districts where it has never been used, into which it might be profitably introduced, or where it should at least be fairly tried.

Of the fertilizing influence of gypsum in the early days of its use, there is ample evidence from contemporary accounts. Whole districts of the most impoverished land were thoroughly regenerated. Extensive portions of Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and other States, now and for many years past, justly celebrated for their fertility, owe their fame, chiefly to the impulse they received in the early period of the use of plaster, and its wise combination with that invaluable improver, red clover. Judge Peters, of Philadelphia, to whom we are indebted for the introduction of plaster as a fertilizer, said of it when speaking of the now famous agricultural lands of Loudon County, Virginia: "The Plaster of Paris has created in that county an entire renovation of their soil, which was worn out by long cultivation and bad systems. Much of it was not originally of the best quality, their bottom lands excepted. The use of gypsum began in that county about twenty-eight years ago. They have now the most solid reason for entertaining the highest opinion of its capacities. It has substituted plenty and comfort in place of want and scanty subsistence. Their lands have in many instances quadrupled in value. Their stock of domestic animals have wonderfully increased, and their barns and granaries are filled. Lands producing in their exhausted state only seven bushels of corn, and five of wheat to the acre, have been made by plaster alone, and clover crops, to bring forty of the former and thirty of the latter to the acre, and their fertility remains on the advance. If land is for sale, the only inquiry is whether it lies well and is well watered. Its being poor or rich makes very little difference in the price, as it is well known that one course of red clover, well plastered for one or two years, puts the ground in good heart for any crop. In fact the clover crop, with its most magical adjunct the plaster, does every thing for exhausted land, and much for any other." Col.

John Taylor of Caroline Co., Va., author of that once well known little work, *Arator*, Thomas Moore, the Quaker farmer of Montgomery county, Md., author of the famous *Essay on Deep Ploughing*, published in 1802—and the numerous Pennsylvania correspondents of Judge Peters, all give like statements for their several sections. They speak of crops doubled and quadrupled, and in one instance of a clover crop increased eight fold by a single dressing of plaster.

As to the crops on which clover may be used with most effect, it is matter of importance to be informed, because it is found to have remarkable efficiency on crops of a certain character, and to be totally inoperative on others. The French Chemist, Boussingault, gives a series of questions submitted to agriculturists, with their answers, as follows: "1st. Does plaster act favorably on artificial meadows?" Of forty-three answers given, forty are in the affirmative and three in the negative. 2d. "Does it act favorably on artificial meadows, the soil of which is very damp?" Unanimously, No. Ten opinions given. 3d. "Will it supply the place of organic manure or of vegetable mould?—i. e. will a barren soil be converted into a fertile one by the use of plaster?" No, unanimously. Seven opinions given. 4th. "Does it sensibly increase the crops of the cereals?" Of thirty-two opinions given, thirty were negative and two affirmative. These opinions, are singularly coincident with ours in this country, especially as regards crops. Artificial meadows being composed in great measure of clovers are always benefitted by the use of plaster when the soil is dry, but not otherwise. On crops of small grain it is never used directly. The red clover is the crop on which it is pre-eminently effective. It was by means of its action on this most valuable improver, that the extraordinary work of regeneration was brought about which followed the introduction of plaster. One case is mentioned of the increase of clover hay from 500 lbs. to 4000 lbs. per acre. Col. Taylor of Va. found it to act very advantageously, on a natural growth of our lighter lands, known as "Bird-foot clover," a growth which makes a dense cover and improves such lands rapidly. The effect upon that valuable renovator, the Southern Field Pea, is very striking. A correspondent of the *Southern Planter* made some years ago the following statement: "I applied plaster to the poorest part of my pea-fallow at the rate of half a bushel to the acre. The peas had about six or eight leaves at the time the application was made. In a few weeks, the vines were a much deeper green, and were much more flourishing than those adjacent without plaster. The whole field was fallowed and put into wheat and the result was about four times as much wheat where the plaster was used."

It is not well that a fertilizer whose good effects have been so well tested should go out of fashion, or be rejected anywhere without trial.

At a recent term of the Criminal Court of Chester Co., Pennsylvania, a man "charged with having obnoxious weeds on his farm, and allowing them to grow, to the great damage of his neighbors," was found guilty and sentenced to pay a fine of \$10 and costs of prosecution.—*Ec.*

[From the Rural Carolinian.]

### David Dickson and Improved Farming.

David Dickson, undoubtedly the best and most successful planter in Georgia, if not in the whole South, is of English descent, and was born in Hancock County, Ga., July 6th., 1809. His father, Mr. Thomas Dickson, was a native of Virginia, served in the Revolutionary army, and soon after the close of the War of Independence removed to Georgia, where he died in 1827, at the age of a little over seventy years. His wife, the mother of the subject of our sketch, was born in North Carolina in 1777, and survived her husband many years, dying in 1864, at the age of about eighty-seven years. Mr. Dickson, therefore, comes of a long-lived stock, and inherited from his parents what has been of more value to him, and contributed more to his success than the largest fortune could have done—an excellent constitution and a strong, well balanced brain—a sound mind in a healthy body. Beyond this he received little, his share of the paternal property amounting to only \$1,200. His educational advantages were quite limited, but his clear, comprehensive intellect, his close observation, and the best use of his opportunities for reading and study, have enabled him to acquire a stock of practical knowledge such as few with better early advantages can boast.

Mr. Dickson commenced his business-life as a small country trader. In 1835 he entered into partnership with Col. Thomas M. Turner, and opened a store in Sparta, Ga., where they were successful; doing a heavy country business, which they continued to push with great energy for five years.

In 1846, having finally closed his mercantile business and made all the necessary preparations, Mr. Dickson returned to the place where he was born—his father's old homestead—and commenced farming with a capital of \$25,000, acquired in trade. When the war broke out his property was valued at \$500,000, all made in planting. His plantation in Hancock and Washington Counties (adjoining) comprises about 15,000 acres, and he owns another of 13,000 acres in Texas. These figures speak for themselves, and indicate a degree of energy, skill and forethought which few possess, and without which such grand results could not have been reached in any branch of business.

In person, Mr. Dickson is above the medium height, well formed, stout and robust. His complexion is fair, fresh and ruddy, and the expression of his countenance grave, serious, thoughtful and benevolent, with a vein of quiet humor, however, underlying the whole, reminding one of the best type of the Quaker, though he is not a member of that respectable sect. He is plain in his dress, unpretending in his manners, speaks his mind freely and without fear or favor, and has very decided opinions on most questions of general interest. He looks younger than the figures we have given show him to be, and has all the activity and energy of a man of forty years of age. Long may he live to teach the South, by both precept and example, his system of Improved Farming.

### MR. DICKSON'S PLANTATION.

During the first week in August last, with the interests of *The Rural Carolinian* and its

fifty thousand prospective readers in view, we made a brief visit to Mr. Dickson's plantation, situated on the Little Ogeechee River, in Hancock County.

From the beautiful little town of Sparta, a drive of nine or ten miles through a pleasant rolling country, the wooded portions of which presented a mixed growth of pine, oak and hickory, brought us to Mr. Dickson's homestead. The soil of the country through which we passed, like the forest growth, is of mixed character, red clay and gray sand alternating. We passed several neat, well cultivated plantations, which seemed to indicate that Mr. Dickson's precept and example had not been without their influence. Cotton was here, as we had observed it elsewhere during our journey, the principal crop. Those who think our ancient king has been deposed are greatly in error. He yet lives and reigns in spite of war, emancipation and "reconstruction."

As we approach Mr. Dickson's plantation the soil loses its mixed character, the land becoming what is called gray, and the forest growth being mainly long-leaved pine.

On entering the plantation we observed that the gates and fences were all in a serviceable condition, and that there was that undefinable air of *thrift* about the place too generally lacking among us. Between the main road and the house we passed a large corn-field—the largest and the best we had seen during our journey. It was good corn, but the condition of the field slightly disappointed us. It was not free from grass, and had not been worked in the most skillful manner. We afterwards learned that it was rented to freedmen whom Mr. Dickson had not been able to induce to do the work just right; so when we referred to the field as the best we had seen, he said that it ought to have been a great deal better, and that he would not own it as a specimen of his farming at all.

We met Mr. Dickson at the house—a very modest cottage, such as you may see on many a small farm in Georgia or South Carolina, with nothing remarkable or pretentious about it in any way. Everything for use and comfort and nothing for show is evidently the rule. The farm buildings and negro quarters are more likely to attract attention than the dwelling, as they are decidedly better than are usually seen.

#### A MODEL COTTON-FIELD.

The first thing that attracted our special attention as we approached the cotton-field was its smoothness of surface—the entire absence of those ridges and hills, made by the plough and the hoe, which mark the rows in our fields generally. The next noticeable peculiarity was its perfect cleanness. No fringe of crab grass and no struggling weeds were to be seen. Mr. Dickson does not attempt to make a crop of cotton and a crop of grass on his land at the same time. The cotton was a sight worth travelling all the way from Charleston to see. We had seen nothing like it during our journey. Some small patches on town lots in Sparta and elsewhere could show plants quite as tall perhaps, but the pre-eminence of Mr. Dickson's cotton lies in its stocky growth, its numerous heavy branches—and, above all, in its prolific fruitage—the *bolls and squares clustering thickly in double rows*

*upon the branches.* "I do not cultivate cotton for the weed," Mr. Dickson remarked, "but for the bolls."

There had been a severe drouth, and much of the cotton we had seen elsewhere had shed leaves, squares and bolls to a greater or less extent, but here we observed no loss of this kind, the plants being fresh, healthy and vigorous from bottom to top. In brief, here was cotton that promised a yield of two bales to the acre; and it was not on rich bottom land, but on what people are pleased to call a "pine barren"—not fresh pine barren either, but land that has been under cultivation for *seventy years*, and was so poor and worn out when Mr. Dickson bought it, we were told, that no one else would have it at any price. With these facts in view, one begins to appreciate the results of his improved system of farming.

The field of which we have been speaking will, under Mr. Dickson's cultivation, produce forty bushels of corn to the acre, and his corn crop never fails! No drouth burns it up. "I can tell in the spring," Mr. Dickson said, "where the *dry streak* will fall in summer. It always follows the bad farming." The "dry streak" never falls on *his* corn-field. We shall see why when we come to examine his mode of planting and cultivating corn.

We might speak at much greater length of what we saw and heard during our brief visit to Mr. Dickson's plantation, but what our readers are most interested in learning is, how the results we have described are attained. Mr. Dickson is successful. He makes heavy crops on poor land. He has acquired wealth by planting. Every planter and farmer, it is presumed, would like to be and do the same, and each is anxious to know how the thing is done.

#### MR. DICKSON'S SYSTEM.

We can tell our readers, in brief, how Mr. Dickson farms, but we cannot ensure every man who may essay to follow his example the same success. Few possess his intellectual capacity, his sound judgment or his executive abilities; but all may improve and approach, if they cannot reach, Mr. Dickson's high position among the great agriculturists of the present day.

The principal points in Mr. Dickson's system, as they struck us in our examination of his operations, are:

1. A *deep and thorough* preparation of the soil;
2. The liberal use of manures;
3. Level and *shallow* cultivation;
4. Rotation of crops;
5. Economy of labor.

Do you say that there is nothing new in all this? Perhaps not. In theory the principles which underlie the system have, in the main, been long since accepted by the best informed agriculturists of Europe and America; but our practice, with few exceptions, has been diametrically opposed to them, as will more strikingly appear when we look at the matter somewhat in detail.

First, then, in regard to the preparation of the soil. Mr. Dickson's maxim is, "*plough as deep as you can,*" or say from eight to fifteen inches and sub-soil every fourth year, *accumulating all the vegetable matter you can on the surface to be turned in.* Land thus prepared admits the air, holds moisture and allows the roots of plants to penetrate deeply, and thus ensure themselves against drouth. Do our farmers

generally prepare their soil in this way, or make any approximation to it?

In the second place, everybody knows that manure is a very good thing for growing crops, but we go on, year after year, planting without manure, or with very little of it. Mr. Dickson, knowing that manure, judiciously applied, will pay, uses it *freely*. But what kind of manure, and how much? In the first place he returns everything to the land (after being eaten or used) which he has taken from it, except the lint of the cotton, and, in addition, gathers leaves, pine straw, and the scrapings of swamps, and digs muck to spread in his stock yards and to scatter broadcast on his fields. Then he makes up the required amount of the fertilizing elements by the application of a concentrated compound composed of Peruvian guano, dissolved bones, common salt, and land in equal proportions by weight, mixing the ingredients himself. Of this compound he has used this season, if we mistake not, about 800 pounds to the acre (except on rented land) at a cost, probably of not far from \$25 per acre. Is such manuring an old thing—in practice, we mean—among our planters and farmers?

#### HOW HE PLANTS COTTON AND CORN.

But it is in the planting and working of his crops that Mr. Dickson's practice differs most strikingly from that of most planters. Let us see how he does it:

1. *Cotton*.—He makes the rows four feet apart, opening with two furrows a trench about eight inches deep. Into this deep furrow the manure is scattered and covered with a scooter plough, going about as deep as the other two furrows, and followed, on each side of the scooter furrow, by a turn-plough running seven inches deep. He opens the seed furrow with a bull tongue plough, drops the seed thickly and covers lightly with a board. The ploughing is done with the famous Dickson sweep, running shallow—the last ploughing not more than half an inch deep—and the ploughing and hoeing is repeated as often as is necessary to keep the ground perfectly clean, *but the soil is not heaped up about the cotton nor the roots cut by either plough or hoe.* When the crop is "laid by" the ground is nearly level and smooth.

2. *Corn*.—The land being broken up at least eight or nine inches deep and sub-soiled if practicable, he lays off furrows, with a long shovel plough, *seven feet apart*; then, commencing at the opposite end, he opens out the furrow with a longer shovel plough, leaving the furrow open *seven or eight inches deep*. Whatever manure he uses is deposited in this furrow, three feet apart, and the corn dropped three or four inches from the manure. He covers with a light harrow one and a half inches deep. Observe that we have here deep *planting*, but not deep *covering*.

He gives his corn three thorough workings, keeping the field clean and free from grass, and planting a row of peas between each two rows of corn. The details of his cultivation we intend to give at a future time. It is sufficient to say here that the same principle of shallow ploughing is applied to corn as to cotton. There is no hilling up, but a smooth, level surface.

Does not the reader now see why Mr. Dickson's corn never suffers seriously from



any ordinary drouth? Having for several years planted corn on a similar plan, though not quite so deep, we can add our own testimony, were any further evidence needed, in favor of deep planting and shallow cultivation.

Mr. Dickson's rotation in cropping his land is:

First year, Cotton; second year, Corn; third year, Small Grain; fourth year, the land lies fallow.

The resting of the land allows it to accumulate humus or vegetable matter, which may be increased by planting peas, (or clover where it will succeed,) to be turned in at the proper time.

It would not seem very difficult to follow Mr. Dickson thus far, so as to keep within sight of him at least, but when we come to what we have called Economy and Labor, there are brought into play certain natural gifts with which few are so largely endowed as he.

"The farmer must make every stroke tell," Mr. Dickson says, and he does make every stroke tell. Not satisfied with increasing the productive capacity of the soil, he develops also, and still more wonderfully, the productive capacity of the laborer. This he accomplishes by using improved implements; by time and labor-saving modes of working, and, more than all, we think, by his peculiar talent for training and managing the laborer himself. This peculiar trait is most strikingly illustrated by the fact that under the old system, when labor was perfectly under control, he was accustomed to cultivate *thirty-three acres to the hand*, while other planters, as a rule cultivated only fifteen; and to accomplish this he employed no overseer or driver.

Such is Mr. Dickson's farming. A general adoption of his methods, with only an approximation to his executive efficiency, would at once *more than double the products of the South*, and at the same time increase, year by year, instead of diminishing the fertility of the soil.

#### Manuring with Sod.

Through sod we get the improvement of our land. England gets this. The American dairy districts get it. They make sod their manure; they manufacture it with manure for that purpose. They thus get the benefit of the manure in a double draught, the air always being largely drawn upon for the free improvement. And this manure sod is the best of manure, readily decomposed and containing the ingredients wanted, reproducing itself, with always that beautiful (more than double addition) from the atmosphere.

Sod is the regenerator of farming, as it always has been in nature, and its efficacy is not lost. It is manuring without labor; it is the right pabulum—the plant itself reproduced. We do not raise grass enough, clover in particular, the farmer's plant. We should raise more, much more, to fatten both our stock and land. And we need little more to do both. The green fields of England are a hundred years old, some of them; some much older—in grass all this time, and still yielding good as ever. Grass gets its strength from the atmosphere, but also from the soil, the two sources inexhaustible. How long

have the prairies been growing grass, dense, thick, a sod so tough it can scarcely be broken? Here is a philosophy which appeals with a force which we cannot resist.

Now we know for a certainty that land can be kept in grass for a good many years, if not perpetually, by simply allowing it its own coat of aftermath in the fall. We have tried this and seen it tried for over a dozen of years with perfect success, and on land that before would run out treated in the usual old-fashioned way of close feeding. Where land is quite poor it needs top-dressings to start it, top-dressings from the stables, or compost, till a good sod is formed. Then rely upon the aftermath, and upon occasional sprinklings of plaster and ashes if you wish heavier crops.

At any time you can break up your sod, and you are sure of a crop if properly managed. Begin with corn fallow, with barley, and close with wheat, stocking down to grass again. Your land then will be rich and mellow, your seed will catch, there will be the proper soil for grass again, for you want a mellow soil for grass, which lies many years without stirring, unless you use clover; that will stir it well for you, deeply also, more than is generally supposed.

Sow the grass seed (or clover) thick; apply the fertilizers (plaster, ashes, salt) if needed, and get a *thick, close* sod, you may as well as not. But do not spare the seed, and do not spare the fertilizers if the soil is not rich. You will have a sod in a couple of years—a sod that will afford you more manure than you ever spread or saw spread on land to the acre, sixty or seventy heavy two horse loads. And your manure (the sod) is in place already—you could not spread it so well if you tried ever so much. It is so mixed with the soil that not a particle of the strength escapes, but the soil united with it holds it.

The difficulty with our sod is, we have it on wet soil, that is, soil not drained. The grasses will flourish there, but the grains will not.—This we must remedy; and we can do it only by drainage. This will rectify all. This will save the sod in the spring, will increase the growth, will invite the roots downward, so as to thicken, not toughen, the sward.

Now, sod pays in the grass alone, in its clover alone; this as feed, both for meadow and pasture. Then there is the manure, worth more than any covering of barnyard or any other manure. Do we need to repeat this—this advice? It seems so. People are so apt not to think, not to see. Will they rather draw their manure than have it on the land already. This seems so too, to a great extent.

But, in putting in land to grass, put it in properly, by ditching, by deep culture (subsoiling, &c.) thick sowing of seed—much thicker than usual—top-dressing with plaster (one bushel to the acre, ashes (from 10 to 50 per acre,) and salt, half a dozen bushels, not to exceed that. Lime may also be used to advantage. This and the salt must be tested. Then manure from the stables, compost, &c., to be spread and worked down finely, harrowed, careless of the cutting of the sod.—Even if considerable mellow soil gets mixed with the manure (or the harrow may be used without the manure) there will be no harm but benefit. This should be done in the fall, but will answer early in the spring. A little

seed sprinkled in, in the case of worn-out or well-run meadows, will be an advantage. But one of the most effectual things is yet to mention, which we have mentioned, but which will bear repeating: leave a coat of grass in the fall. We speak this wholly from experience, and therefore with confidence. A thick, good aftermath, which can be obtained, will be so much gain to the next crop, as though the frost had not cut it down, nor the winter and spring wet rotted it—for this will be reproduced; being in contact with the roots, it will be the first that is taken up of the pabulum of the soil. Besides, it is a protection, and a decided one during the winter.

With such treatment of the land, and the rotation of crops we have mentioned, or some other equally good, there is no difficulty to enrich land, and do it rapidly, increasing the products of the soil at the same time in the same ratio. We know farmers who do just this, and they are at the head of farming. In a few years they will reclaim a field which they may have occasion to purchase, as we have seen. And it never fails. You may rely always upon sod.—*Prairie Farmer.*

#### Spread Manure.

Mr. C. K. Carpenter, of Michigan, in the *Western Rural*, makes the following sensible remarks on the subject of spreading manure, and when:

"In passing through a field of corn yesterday, I noticed a marked difference in appearance after passing a certain line, and upon examination I found that this difference in appearance extended across the field at a right angle with the course I was going. At first I could not make out the cause of the difference, and while pondering over the matter, it occurred to me that we manured a part of that field last fall with barn-yard manure, spreading it as we drew it to the field. The rest of the field was manured during the winter and early spring, with manure drawn directly from the stables and spread upon the ground as it was hauled. I did not do this for experiment, but to suit our convenience as to work, and having exhausted our old manure, we had to manure the balance of the field as above stated. There was no mark made to designate the place where it was manured in the fall, hence it took me some time to find the division line, but where I did I found that it corresponded exactly with the line of difference I had noticed in the corn. The corn on the fall manured ground will yield I think one-quarter more at least, besides it is more forward and has the appearance of maturing considerably earlier than the other part of the field. In fact is is nearly all sound at this date, Sept. 13th, while the other part has much good roasting-corn in it.

"I have practiced manuring in the fall, for corn, (spreading it as we drew it,) for a number of years, with the best results, but this is the first time I have had an opportunity of seeing the difference between the two plans of manuring. Now if I was "Subscriber," I should scatter that manure as quick as possible, believing that the value of the mulch of the manure upon the whole surface of the ground would more than compensate for the loss by evaporation from the manure in drying."

### Cabbages as a Field Crop.

As a field crop, cabbages possess some great advantages, such as the immense yield per acre, a very high nutritive character, and fattening qualities that are unsurpassed. The only great drawback as a crop for winter feeding is its bulk, and the room required to store it. But this is no great objection when its hardy qualities are considered, and the ease with which it may be stored in or near the barn without injury.

A recent analysis of Dr. Voelcker, chemist of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, will give a correct idea of its composition. In 100 parts of the cabbage he finds the following:

Water.....	89.62
Oil.....	.68
Soluble flesh forming matters.....	1.19
Sugar, digestible fibre, etc.....	7.01
Soluble mineral matters.....	.73
Insoluble flesh forming compounds.....	.31
Woody fibre.....	1.04
Insoluble mineral matter.....	0.12

160

It will convey a more definite idea of the nutritive value of this plant to give the composition of the Swedish turnip or ruta baga, as a means of comparison. The following is an average of many analyses, and may be taken as correct:

Water.....	89.50
Flesh-forming matters.....	1.44
Non-nitrogenous fat, sugar, gum, etc.....	5.80
Woody fibre.....	2.54
Mineral matter.....	.63

100

It will be seen that in flesh-forming constituents, the cabbage considerably exceeds the Swede. In fat-forming materials or non-nitrogenous elements the cabbage has very greatly the advantage. We need not say that in cultivation and ease of handling the advantage is also on the side of the cabbage. We do not undervalue the Swede—it is highly important and admirably adapted to light lands. We would not be without a large and liberal supply. And so of the mangold: on strong soils in good heart it is invaluable as furnishing a vast amount of the best cattle food.

But valuable as the roots are, the cabbage is also worthy of extensive and careful cultivation. It wants good soil, and it requires abundant manuring. That is no objection. The same may be said against all valuable green crops that remove a considerable amount of mineral matters from the soil. A crop is generally valuable in proportion as it removes the constituents of the soil.

Now if we compare the cost of cultivating and producing a heavy crop of roots, and the nutritive value of the two when produced, the comparison is clearly on the side of the cabbage, and the crop does not actually rob the soil of the amount of plant food which its immense abundance would indicate. Its large wide spreading leaves derive their great stores of ammonia and carbonic acid from the air, and it is altogether probable that the amount of nitrogen in the soil is actually increased during the cultivation of the cabbage, even if no ammoniacal manures are employed.

With the same labor, the same care and cost of cultivation, the product per acre of nutritive and valuable feeding substances will greatly exceed those of the mangold or the Swede, as a general rule.

The success of the cabbage crop will depend very largely upon the quality of the seed, and it is no use to expect a great crop unless very great care has been taken in growing the plants from which the seed has been derived. The largest and best formed plants only produce the best seed; but unless the land is free not only from weeds, but of all other varieties of the Brassica family of plants, good and reliable seed is impossible. We apprehend that many failures or partial failures have occurred from carelessness in growing and selecting the seed. Hence every farmer should take care to grow his own seed. Unless the seed is the best, the plants will not head well. There is about as much risk in buying cabbage seed as there is in parsnip seed. Every farmer ought to grow an abundance of both, and then he will know what he has.

The drumhead cabbage is perhaps the best for field cultivation; grown on a good loam and well manured, from fifty to sixty tons have been gathered from an acre.

Look out and get a good seed bed started early, so as to have an abundance of plants for an acre or two. This suggestion is important, and not to be overlooked.—*Ex.*

### A Talk among Pennsylvania Farmers about Feeding and Making Manure.

A correspondent of *Germantown Telegraph*, furnishes that journal, the following notes of what he heard among Montgomery county farmers:

One neighbor said that he had found it most economical to feed cornfodder and oats-straw to stock-cattle early in the season, in order that the stalks of the cornfodder may become broken up short by the continued trampling of the cattle on the frozen ground. His rule is, fodder in the morning, hay at noon, and oats-straw at night; he usually sprinkles the oats-straw with salt-water before giving it to his cattle, and thinks this the best way of giving them salt. Usually buys ten head of steers, which will dress about seven hundred pounds per head, and in addition keeps two horses and three cows, and to furnish them with food during the winter he cuts from twenty-five to thirty acres of grass; with the fodder from ten acres of corn and the straw of ten acres of oats, keeps them through the winter. The manure of the horses, cattle and cows, with the straw from ten acres of wheat and refuse cornstalks, usually make him from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and seventy-five loads of manure for his ten acres of wheat. He saves his wheat and oats chaff, and feeds it to the cattle early in the season, usually selected a stiff, damp day that it may not blow about. Every fall he buys a ton of ground-plaster; this he sows broadcast over his barnyard several times during the winter; he prefers to do so soon after the fresh straw is put on the yard, as it makes it brittle and enables the cattle to break it up shorter than they otherwise would do. His horses when idle are kept altogether on hay, of which they have as much as they will eat; when at work they have cracked oats.—The oats are run through a small horse-power mill, which he has on the farm, with the grinding surfaces so far apart as to break it in several pieces, but not to make it into meal. This he considers the most economical food for horses,

much more so than feeding the whole grain. I can testify that he keeps his horses in as good order as a horse can be, as fat as moles, and yet he says he did not feed but twenty-four bushels of oats from the first of November to the first of March, last winter. Thinks it pays to put his cattle into their stalls at noon to eat their hay, in order that each one may get its proper share. He has found by actual trial that a steer of the weight before mentioned, will eat about thirty-five pounds of hay per day, and then have all he will eat; he tried the experiment several times, and found but little variation from the above figures; and what little there was he attributed to the difference of temperature.

Another preferred to feed his fodder and oats-straw all out before feeding any hay, as he thought the cattle did not eat the straw so well as when they had hay. He fed fifty-eight bushels of oats to two horses between the dates named, but did not give them as much as they could eat; he found that his largest horse (about fourteen and a half hands high), would eat twenty-three pounds of timothy hay and three quarts (three and one-fourth pounds), of whole oats in a day, and then have all he would eat. He usually fed four quarts of oats and about twenty pounds of hay per day. Preferred giving the oats in equal portions at morning and evening, with a small portion of hay, and nothing but hay at noon, with water three times, always before feeding. He thinks it better to keep smaller cattle and more of them; his cattle averaging about six and one-fourth hundred weight when dressed.

Another had experimented a great deal in keeping cows for milk, and found oats and corn ground together in equal proportions to be the best and most economical feed; he usually fed six quarts of this meal and fifteen pounds of clover hay per day to his cows; he found that on a very cold day one of them eat her allowance of meal and twenty one pounds of hay. He stables his cows at night and lets them run with the cattle in the barnyard during the day, say from nine until four o'clock. He considers it a good plan to raise calves, and finds ground oats at the rate of one quart per day, with as much clover hay as they will eat, to be the best winter food for them. He usually keeps four cows and raises four calves every year.

Another farmer has paid more attention to the food consumed by his sheep than any other kind of stock. He found by careful observations that his sheep eat from three to three and one-fourth per cent. of their live weight in hay per day, but if they had one quart of corn and oats ground in equal proportions they would eat but two per cent.; he had found an occasional feed of whole corn or oats to be beneficial, and gave them a few of the smallest potatoes occasionally as a change. He has never found much profit in fattening sheep on grain, but prefers to feed it to cattle. He usually keeps from twenty to twenty-five head of sheep all winter, say from the 1st of December to the middle of May, and finds by measurement of the hay in the mow that they eat about five and three-quarters tons; this amount allows them hay three times a day, and as much of it as they will eat. If furnished with plenty of straw, they will make about one load of manure to every sheep.



He usually keeps his small calves with the sheep, as he finds they will eat the hay which the sheep tramp under their feet. He found that two pigs, each a year old, would eat as much clover hay as a sheep, and always gave them a fork full once a day in a low rack made on purpose; he kept the pigs over winter and in good condition, on clover hay, one feed of corn on the ear, and what slops were made at the house.

Nine o'clock having arrived the little conclave separated, for you must know, Mr. Editor, that farmers, who work hard all day are weary at night and seek their beds at an early hour, and eat their breakfast every morning from December to February by candle-light.

GEO. P. RODGERS.

*Eagle Farm, Pa., Dec. 22, 1869.*

#### Wheat as a Civilizer.

An army, said a famous captain, is like a serpent: it travels on its belly. So with the grand march of the race: true advance is made in proportion to the quantity of first-class food which can be obtained by all classes. The chemists and anatomists have brought the philosophy of nutrition to a positive science. We know that food is the best which re-enforces the wasting blood with the greatest promptness and certainty. We know that of the cereals wheat is king, because it has the greatest power of any single grain of supporting vigorous and earnest life. A hundred English wheat-eaters govern as many thousands of the rice-consuming swarms of Lower Asia. The Indian, eating maize and wild meat, gives way to the European living on stall meat and wheat-bread. In our late war the regions that raise least wheat yielded first to the pressure; while the States which raise most wheat made the most stubborn resistance, and their soldiers were more hardy, resolute, and irrepressible. In all countries where civilization is advancing there is a steady increase in the number of those who eat wheaten bread, and in the quantity which is consumed by each person.

In England and Wales the amount eaten by each person on an average is 6 bushels, in Scotland 4½ bushels, in Ireland 3½. These proportions accurately represent the value and power of these countries in civilization. The demand for wheat bread is constantly and everywhere on the increase, and so is the demand for the most concentrated and nutritious meats. English statisticians some time ago noticed the steady rise in the price of beef and mutton, and that it outruns the growth of population. Their dry columns, compiled from death rates and census tables, prove some very cheerful and significant facts—that the number of those who eat from a wheaten loaf twice a day and have meat once a day is regularly increasing; that in the same proportion the average duration of human life increases, and the refinement, the courage, and enterprise of communities is enhanced. Such is now the demand for wheat in Great Britain that although the pick of her acres is always given to this kingly cereal, and her average is 28 bushels to the acre, she cannot begin to raise bread for her population, but calls on the rest of the world, and mainly on America, for fifty or sixty million bushels

annually. Facts like these may with propriety cheer the American grain farmer and give him heart, when he hears that winter is setting in with the bulk of the wheat crop unmoved and the price not encouraging. For years he has received a price which has made the five-cent loaf of the poor man in cities a sorry little bite. Now its size can be enlarged—doubled nearly. The great nations of Europe can have more and more of the best food, the nutriment most exactly fitted to develop the muscles, re-enforce the blood, and feed the brain. Tiny creatures, working by myriads in tropic seas, build up by hair-breadths of daily growth those vast scaffolds of coral to which islands are anchored, by which the continents are propped. So ten thousand lonely ploughmen and sowers of the seed in wide prairies or by far rivers of the West are each adding, pound by pound and tun by tun, to the vast aggregate of resources by which the energy, the daring and the toil of modern progress are made possible. The supply train is just as indispensable in a campaign as the parks of artillery. So in society the wheat-grower advances society as truly, though not as conspicuously, as he who builds the long railroad, utters the ringing speech, or achieves the brilliant literary success.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

#### Saving Manure.

The quantity of manure that may be saved and manufactured from twenty head of cattle in a year is astonishing to an old style farmer, who believes in the good old stuff, but is too close fisted to hire labor. The writer came into possession of a run down farm last spring, with about forty loads of manure in the two barn yards, as the result of last year's operations. The practice in the neighborhood is to clean the yards in the spring, and let them lie bare until after haying, when a few loads of dirt and seaweed are carted in, which suffices for the year. As soon as the yards were cleared, we began to cart in old butts, stack bottoms, swamp mud, decayed leaves, head lands, and seaweed, adding every week a few loads, and ploughing occasionally to mix the droppings of the cattle with the contents of the yard. All the manure from the horses, oxen, cows, and pigs, was thrown into the yards and mixed with the accumulating mass. By September we had at least two hundred and fifty loads of compost of much better quality than was carted out in the spring, ready to be spread upon the meadows or to be ploughed under for grain, and the best part of the year for making manure is still ahead. In the common practice of leaving the yards bare during the summer; the most valuable part of the manure is lost for want of absorbents, even if the cattle are yarded at night. There is nothing to save the liquid manure, which is worth quite as much as the solid. Most of the ammonia escapes into the atmosphere. But with plenty of good absorbents and the frequent ploughing and harrowing of the yard, nothing is lost. All the refuse material dropped in the yard becomes charged with ammonia, and plant food is manufactured very fast. It tells upon the grass, grain and root crops immediately, and the process of renovating begins. This, of course, cost labor, and the outlay of capital, but it is a kind of expenditure that pays very

soon in the increased crops. We must either do this, or worse. It will not do to rely upon commercial fertilizers for ordinary farming. The great bulk of fertilizers must be made at home. Neither will it pay to have lean barnyards, and grow grass at the rate of three-quarters of a ton to the acre, twenty-five bushels of corn, thirty of oats, ten of rye, and fifty of potatoes. The farm runs down, and the farmer's purse grows lean with this kind of management. We want to double and treble these crops, and by saving manure any farmer of ordinary intelligence can do it.—*American Agriculturist.*

#### Aim at Quality.

I have found it an excellent thing, convenient withal, as well as profitable, to aim at quality in all things. This lays the foundation for prosperity. You are safe always. Good quality in society, in market, in "metal" for a race, in clothing, in stock, land, property of all kinds. If you lack quality, you lack everywhere. If you have good quality you are safe everywhere.

The farmer goes to market with clean grain, plump and bright, goes with confidence. He knows he can sell if any one can, if there is any market at all; and if there is none, he even then stands a chance to sell, to make a market. Good things are so scarce that there is always market for them. If your grain and your grass seed, particularly your rich clover seed, your butter, your cheese—ah, these are of importance!—and even your hay, (if you are so unwise as to sell it,)—if all these are of first quality, you control the market, you lead off in the price, and you are sought, even your word is taken, if it is known you sell such and only such. It is easy to sell them.

On all your products (of a year's growth) the sum will be a nice one; the excess in consequence of superior quality, on all these, will be quite an item—a quarter, or but little less of the value of the whole. And will not this pay? Remember this is clear gain; it costs as much to make a pound of good butter as a pound of poor, and no more; no more to make a pound of good cheese; perhaps a little more care; that is all.

And so it is with the stock you keep at your barn of all kinds; the grain you raise, the fruit. You are careful to have clear grain. Once the foul stuff out of your land, you are careful to keep it out.

You do not let your grain get over ripe so that it loses in weight and color, that is quality, particularly your barley; your oats also, and your wheat, neither your hay.

You gather your summer fruit in the summer, not in the fall, as is done so much—Pippins and Harvests at the same time; or Pippins and Spitzenbergs, say in October; but each in its time, and sold in its time.

What a reputation such a man will establish! The only drawback is the envy which assails him. We know such men, and we regret to say that this is the case. It is almost if not quite universally so; self-importance will not allow of others' prosperity. Yet if a man is wholly humble, unobtrusive, and sincerely manifests and lives a Christian life, this must necessarily be less so. Good quality then in a man, as well as in what he produces.

*Utica Herald.*

## Horticultural.

### The Flower Garden.

#### MARCH.

The lawns should be rolled, and dressed with some fertilizer if they need it. If the soil is porous a dressing of clay improves the grass. For flower beds the soil must be very thoroughly pulverized, and they should be worked as soon as dry enough. Finish pruning hardy shrubs. Late in this month and next, Roses in pots may be put out; young plants of Tea, Bourbon, China, and hybrid perpetual Roses, will bloom finely in the fall, if planted now in good, rich soil.

Plant box-edging this and next month. Put in the slips to the depth of six or eight inches. If the weather prove dry after planting, keep newly planted edgings well watered.

Divide and plant herbaceous plants, as many of the Asters, Phloxes, Veronicas, and many other strong-growing kinds, throw up too many flower-shoots, it is best to thin them out when about three inches high, to obtain fine heads and to increase the strength of the remaining shoots.

Plant out wall-flowers, Sweet-Williams, Canterbury-bells, &c. Sow seeds of early annuals in patches, and cover slightly. Pansies in beds should be spread out, and their long stems covered with rich earth to within two inches of the ends.

Bedding plants, such as Verbenas, Geraniums, Salvias, Cupheas, Fuchsias, Heliotropes, &c., should be provided by putting cuttings in boxes or pots filled with light, sandy soil, and placed over a slight hot-bed under glass. Tender annuals, such as ten-weeks stocks, Mignonette, Balsams, Cockscombs, Amaranthus, German and French Asters, Phlox, &c., should be sown on slight hot-beds and brought forward in pots.

### The Fruit Garden.

The winter has been an unusually mild one, but March will bring high winds, against which fall planted fruit-trees should be well protected.

Take up three inches of soil from around current and goose-berry plants, sprinkle on soot, quick lime and wood ashes, and return the soil. This mixture will act as a stimulating manure and tend to prevent the appearance of the Caterpillar.

In transplanting be careful to deal gently with the fibrous root which supply nourishment to the plant.

For the "American Farmer."

#### Maryland Grape Growers' Association.

Messrs. EDITORS: An informal meeting of a number of grape growers in this State was held, the early part of January, at the residence of G. H. Mittnacht, Esq., Pikesville, Md. A number of wines furnished through the kindness of Mr. Mittnacht were submitted to the taste of those present. They consisted of Delaware, Herbeumont, Catawba, Rogers, Nos. 1 and 9, Norton's Virginia, Clinton, North Carolina and Concord, and were grown by the Bluffton Wine Company of Missouri.

Samples of young wines of Norton's Virginia, Ives' and Concord were exhibited by Mr. Charles T. Schmidt, and of the Concord by Mr. E. P. Hipple. The vineyards of Mr. Schmidt, which were visited by several of those present, were considered as extremely promising. They are elegantly located on the Patapsco River, about six miles from Baltimore, and consist at present of about twenty-five acres, planted principally in Norton's Virginia, Ives' and Concord vines. The condition of the vineyard reflects much credit upon the industry and perseverance of the proprietor. A temporary organization of a Grape Growers' Association was effected by the appointment of G. H. Mittnacht, of the Lyal Park Vineyards, as President *pro tem.*, and Edward P. Hipple, of the Bohemia Vineyards, as Secretary *pro tem.* A number of communications had been received from grape growers in the State, and an early call will be made upon them for a meeting to effect a permanent organization.

Respectfully yours,

EDWARD P. HIPPLE.

Bohemia Vineyards, Town Point, Cecil Co., Md.

#### Importance of Horticulture.

In an address on "Plant Life" delivered by Eliphalet Stowe, at Blantford, Mass., the speaker said: The blessings and comfort of domestic life depend on realities, and not on the vagaries of the imagination, unless you can connect the well filled larder and cellar with the poetic. One of your own members has given you most excellent advice. He says: "Let the farmer surround his home with thrift, neatness and order; let it be embellished with fruits and flowers; let there be a supply of desirable books and papers, that his children may be storing their minds for future usefulness, and not forced to seek in the bar-room and grocery an apology for that society they should find at home. The degree of civilization, and the general taste and refinement of a community or of individuals, may be judged with great accuracy by a glance at the surroundings of their homes."

These are golden truths, and should be inscribed upon the door posts of every farmer's home. Plant trees, and decorate your grounds. You need not do all this at once, but begin and do a little every year; your time and expense will not be missed. Every dollar spent in this way will add ten to the value of your farm. Fix upon some holiday, as the first of May, let every member of the family plant a tree and care for it afterwards. In this way will the family ties be strengthened, and absent sons and daughters will look back to the old homestead with new interest and attachment; and when our Heavenly Father shall sever these links of affection, these trees that have been planted by their hands shall be living monuments—hallowed shrines—around which dear memories of home and thoughts of loved ones will fondly cluster.

The importance of the science of horticulture, we fear is not duly appreciated. It has an influence far more important than the mere gratification of the senses. Its tendency is to elevate the character and fix the habit of a people. We as a people are noted for our restlessness, and this, too, while we are enjoying everything in abundance to make us happy

and contented. Energy is commendable, but not at the expense of our social relations. The practice of horticulture tends to develop our social relations, and to increase our love of home; and just in proportion to the intelligence and settled habits of a people, may be measured the interest manifested in horticulture and its kindred pursuits. There is a pleasure in horticulture, in the innocent pursuits of country life just in proportion as intelligence and refinement preside over its labors.

Show me the man that does not love flowers and children, and you will find him but little above the brute, destitute of the more ennobling qualities of manhood. Such a man should not be trusted. Why was it that God planted the first garden and filled it with fruits and flowers, "and everything that was pleasant to the sight," and then took the man he had made and put him into the garden to dress and keep it, if it were not to bring him into daily contact with nature, and to give him pure, simple and rational pleasures, and to teach him happiness? Why was it that a garden was selected as the last resting place for Him whose pure life of love has lasted through more than eighteen centuries, and will continue to the end of time? Why is it that this feeling of reverence and yearning for the "lost garden" has come down to us through all the dark ages of the world, growing more intense as the world becomes more civilized and refined? Why is it that a flower will attract the notice of the infant in its mother's arms, sooner than any toy? Why is it that the older we grow the greater is our love of flowers? Why is it that we decorate the graves of our loved ones, and the graves of our dead soldiers, with flowers? Why is it that the love of flowers is not confined to any class, race or nation? It is because they speak a universal language—the language of the heart—and respond to the noblest and most generous emotions of the soul—soothing, cheering, delighting, animating, subduing and refining the mind of man by their divine ministrations. Truly, flowers are God's telegraph from the soul of man to Himself—divine messages, full of life and love and beauty.

#### Feed the Fruit Trees.

It must be apparent to every reflecting person that the material round about a fruit-tree, which renders important aid in the production of fine fruit of any kind, must necessarily be more or less exhausted after a vine, bush or tree has produced abundant crops for several successive seasons. For example: A large pear tree or apple tree will frequently yield from ten to sixteen bushels of fruit annually. Many trees have produced more than twice these quantities at one crop.

After a few seasons, the material that the roots must be supplied with, in order to develop fruit, will be more or less exhausted. For this reason, fruit begins to fall; and the failure is often attributed to an east wind, or some mysterious atmospheric influence, when in reality, the sole cause is starvation, arising from an impoverished soil.

The remedy is to feed the roots of all kinds of fruit trees with lime, wood ashes, gypsum, chip dirt, bones, fishes, and anything that will renovate an impoverished soil. It is evident that fruit-trees cannot produce fine fruit out of nothing, or out of such material as may be desirable for some other purpose.—*Hearth and Home.*



## Stock.

### For the "American Farmer." Care of Fowls in Winter.

Hens lay well in warm weather, if they have any reasonable chance for their lives, because they have access to all the elements essential to life and the formation of eggs. But in winter they are at once excluded from nearly all of these, and if you do not provide for them, the eggs will be wanting. In the warm season they feed on grass and other vegetables which are within their reach; they are busy in hunting and devouring every insect that crosses their path; they secure lime, from a great variety of sources, which forms the shell of their eggs; they have access to all the sand and gravel they require to promote digestion; they find plenty of pure water; and in addition to all of these benefits, they find a good bath, by which they rid themselves of vermin.

In freezing weather, with the ground covered with snow, they cannot obtain this supply in a natural way, and if left to shirk for themselves, as a natural consequence, lay no eggs. There is no use in attempting to reason the case with them, or getting out of temper, because they won't do it, and "that's the end on't." But look at the subject like a philosopher, and ascertain what will place them in a summer condition, then go to work and furnish the means; and as there is a compensating principle pervading nature, you will find it developing itself here.

You had better begin with a beautiful thorough-bred variety, as fancy goes very far in our attention to any object, and especially to poultry. The next thing is to provide warm, clean, sunlit quarters. The form of a poultry-house is a matter of taste, but it *must* have these elements of comfort. Sunshine is a great invigorator of all animal systems. Poultry-houses should have large windows in the front of each apartment, and face to the south-east, so as to get the morning sun. It is not necessary that they should be extremely tight and warm, but so as to prevent draughts of air on the fowls. Neither is artificial heat desirable, as it makes the fowls tender, and liable to take cold.

Fowls need a variety of food. No one kind meets their necessities. In this respect study nature, and learn their habits in the summer season. Manage them in the winter just the way they would live in the summer, if left to themselves, as nearly as you possibly can. Corn, oats and buckwheat mixed are better than either alone, but whole grain should be given them only in small quantities. Boiled or scalded buckwheat meal, corn-meal and oat-meal, made rather thin, is economical, nutritious and healthy. Boiled potatoes, refuse apples and parings boiled and mixed with wheat-bran, shorts, or other meal, are very fine. Raw, *not* boiled, cabbage, lettuce, or any other green vegetables, chopped fine, are highly relished. Fresh meat, fat-triers' greaves, and any fresh refuse meat from the table, supply the place of worms and insects. Bones, oyster and clam shells, pounded fine, old mortar and air-slacked lime, furnish material for egg-shells, sand and gravel for digestion, dry sand and wood ashes to wallow in.

Fowls, accommodated in this way, will lay nearly or quite as well in winter as in summer. Eggs, at this time in the year, are generally worth double what they are in the summer, and will repay extra housing and feed. It is, also, a far greater pleasure to collect twenty or thirty eggs in a day, in winter, than it is in summer.

A great amount of literature has been employed, in attempts to prove which was the best variety of fowl, for general purposes of laying and rearing young. All have their advantages and disadvantages. If eggs, only, are the object, some of the non-sitting varieties are to be preferred. But if eggs and chickens, both, come within the plan, those which lay and sit both are to be preferred. Brahmas, whatever they may do in the warm season, are undoubtedly the best winter layers. Spring pullets, raised early, will begin to lay in December and continue through the winter.

Turkeys, geese and duck should be kept from among hens, as they monopolize the best by day and by night. J. V. MAPES.

### The Horse of All Work.

The inspired records speak of man as "a little lower than the angels." Who comes next, is not mentioned, as I remember. I am ready with my opinion on the subject. The horse comes next to man, and more definitely, *the horse of all work*. Horses are known to have human diseases, very nearly, requiring like treatment. Nobody but the cannibals and some similar Frenchmen eat horse flesh, owing probably to conscious relationship. I claim your very "distinguished consideration" for the horse of all work.

He weighs from ten to twelve hundred. He is pony built; in other words well and evenly developed. He is docile, strong, and hardy. He is any color that happens, but in the good time coming, he will shed his mongrel coat, and appear in jet black, chestnut or blood bay; breeders will learn not to mix colors, but secure "fixity of type" in that, as well as other respects.

The horse of all work can go as fast as gentlemen drive—say ten miles an hour. That speed should never be required of him on a full stomach, grass diet, or a poor fit. *His forte is endurance, not speed*. He is eminently practical. He has talent, not genius. He is ready to do anything and everything, that needs to be done. He keeps easy, and lives longer, and has fewer ailments than the fleet racer, or the huge draft horse. The horse that I have described is about the only horse that is needed in this American republic. He may like imported Messenger, Patchen, Green Mountain Norgan, have speed as well as strength. The horse for "long distances" must be a horse with power to draw a load. It is eminently proper to cultivate speed, so far as it can be done without sacrificing strength and endurance. A horse that can trot twenty miles within an hour, as "John Stewart," a Philadelphia horse, and some others have done, can trot ten miles with ease, and without much liability to injure. A horse with a good constitution, good size, and proportions, capable of drawing a plough, or a heavy load over muddy roads is all the better for being fast. If breeders were not blunder-

ers, that description of horses would now be common. But these have committed the grave mistake, *the unpardonable crime*, of frittering away indispensable qualities, *strength and stamina* for the sake of gaining ten seconds on a mile heat! Gentlemen of the turf ought to know that there is no credit attached to that kind of business. Had they always "*bet*" on going further, with greater weight, betting would have done good service in one direction, however demoralizing in its general tendency. The horse that wins, and gets into the papers, is the horse the public run after, and breed from without discriminating inquiry as to his substantial merits. Thus the spindleshanked, short winled high-flyers, that can't carry much on their backs, and break down on a "four mile heat," win great sums of money, on short distances, sell for fabulous prices, are hung up in drawing rooms, and bar rooms, and are pictured along with Colfax and Grant in the illustrated News.

The result we see to-day. One-half of the horses of America would sell for twice their present price if they were 250 pounds heavier. Farmers ought to see that it is easy enough to fritter away the size and strength of their horses, but every way difficult and uncommon to attain first class speed—the one they have accomplished, the other they almost universally fail to reach. Running from one extreme to another, committing a blunder to repair a blunder, they next cross with a ponderous draft horse, rarely serviceable, making an utterly incongruous union with small light boned breeds. Thus we have all sizes, colors and shapes, conglomerate and chaotic. From this mixture of races we can breed with no certainty, either as to size or quality.

I am thoroughly convinced that there is one model of a horse that about every American breeder should pattern after and reproduce. There is but little use in this country for any other kind. Doctor, lawyer, merchant, minister, farmer, all want a docile, compact, symmetrical, hardy animal, weighing from ten to twelve hundred. Such horses do farm work profitably. If the work is too heavy for two use three. Farmers make a great mistake if they do not provide themselves with three-horse ploughs, harrows, and wagons; thus the same driver can accomplish a third more in the same time.

Three thousand three hundred pounds of horse material, if done up in three parcels, is far more available than in two. You can then rake hay while you are drawing it in, and if persistently besieged, spare your wife the odd horse to go to the Sewing Society with. An eleven hundred horse, properly made up, answers well for the farmer, and is about right for the professional man, who often has long drives over bad roads. It is shameful that we should resort to such frail buggies and trashy cutters, and we need not do it, if our steeds have substance. The professional man wants a gay, lively horse, and when he gets a little past his prime, a small farmer will pay a fair price for him, if he has size. Farmers will frequently buy *that kind* of a horse, even if a little stiffened, it is therefore safer property than such as are too light for a lumber wagon or a plough. Let breeders then as a general rule aim to produce horses weighing eleven hundred pounds; compact, muscular, and as *fast* as you can gentlemen. But never sacrifice strength, size and endurance to secure extraordinary speed.

Setting up such a horse as the *universal standard*, there will unavoidably, be sufficient diversity in size, speed, and characteristics to answer the requirements of those who fancy something a little above or below the standard. If the general public would aim at one thing, and discreetly pursue their aim, we should soon weed out the miserable trash that disgraces and damages the noblest department of stock growing. But so long as some breed small, others large; some fine and fleet, others coarse and slow, and then mix all their kinds promiscuously together; so long we shall be afflicted with ungainly inefficient, and unprofitable horses.—*Western Stock Journal*.

## The American Farmer.

Baltimore, March 1, 1870.

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### Improvement.

With the first number of the present volume of the "Farmer" the promise of the publisher "to make such improvements from time to time as the requirements of subscribers might demand," went forth to our thousands of readers. The February No. was improved by the addition of an ornamental border to the title page, and with this number we begin a very important improvement—the stitching and trimming, which makes the paper as convenient in form as any in the country. As far as the ability of our corps of contributors is concerned, we acknowledge no Agricultural journal in America as our superior, and our external appearance we intend to make, gradually but surely, fully equal to that of any paper on this side of the Atlantic.

### Friendly Notices.

We are very much gratified at the favor that the change in our form and terms has met with in all quarters. We are under particular obligations to our Exchanges who have spoken so many good words for the old "American Farmer" in his rejuvenated dress.

Complimentary notices have been pouring in from the press in all sections of the country, and we regret that want of space prevents us naming each Exchange in this connection.

### That "Wickedest Club."

Since Mr. Greely and others have exposed the "wickedness" of the New York City Farmers' Club, and shown the unmeasurable bushels of corn that might have been made in the Southern States last year, but were not made, because of the ill-timed advocacy of shallow ploughing by some of the members of that club, some of the journals around there are showing a little impiety in their treatment of the pious Philosopher. This is natural enough, for when did the wicked "cease from troubling" those who had the courage to expose them. The American Agriculturist and the Rural New Yorker actually make fun of Mr. Greely. The former seeking to make us one of their company in irreverence, makes an extract from a little notice we made lately of the talk in the Farmers' Club as follows:

"HARD ON THE 'FARMERS' CLUB.'—The talkers at the N. Y. Farmers' Club have been bewailing the loss to the country of a million of bushels of corn, which they imagine to have been due to the advocacy by some of the members of shallow ploughing. The deep ploughers pitched into the shallow ones, and told them how very wrong and wicked they had been to preach shallow ploughing, and cause the loss of so much corn in the Southern States. The American Farmer, Baltimore, Md., irreverently says that the corn was lost by the drouth, and not by shallow ploughing, and that "the people who are supposed to have suffered especially by the drouth, have not let up their ploughs the ninety-ninth part of a hair for any influence the Club has had upon them. They know very little, and care much less about the utterances of the notional gentlemen who hold forth at their weekly meeting."

The Rural New Yorker goes a great deal further and makes a picture of the Philosopher, white hat, white coat, spectacles and all, with two yoke of oxen and an Irishman for motive power, while the old man holds the plough-handles. Pat is belabouring the team with a big stick, the plough shows only beam and handles, and the legs of the Philosopher are out of sight in the furrow. "The moisture is there, and I am going deeper to find it," is the "idea" he is driving at.

Seriously, the artist, in this little sketch, has immortalized himself. We have never seen a remarkable character more admirably photographed. Mr. Greely in the picture is doing just what he does in every thing else; he will "run things into the ground." He is a man, not of one but of many ideas, and follows each one of them honestly and earnestly, and sometimes, as in this case, down, down, if it leads to the d—l.

### Our Old Coat.

Our good friend, the Farmers' Gazette of Richmond, concludes a very flattering notice of the American Farmer with the following:

"We may be permitted to add that it pains us much that the old 'Farmer' has doffed his comfortable green coat, and appears before the public in his shirt sleeves, in the depth of winter, yet he is to be congratulated that there is not a patch or darn upon his nether garments."

Now, we have taken off our coat because we mean to go to work. Discarding the fanciful theories and isms that are creeping into agricultural literature, we intend to follow the practical farmer into his field, his garden and his stable, and tell him both what to do and how to do it.

The color of our old coat was indeed appropriate, and no doubt acceptable to the farmer who, above all others, is familiar with the bright robe of nature. But it is a true saying that "too much honey is gall," having increased the size of the paper, we had to drop the old green cover. A little green in art is good, but too much gives one the blues.

We are glad that "not a patch or darn" is to be seen "upon our nether garments;" if, hereafter, they should be rent or worn, it will be because we put our shoulders to the wheel to assist the working farmer.

### Our Oyster Property.

We have read with much interest the report of Captain Hunter Davidson, Chief of the Oyster Police Force of Maryland, and heartily second the suggestions he so wisely makes for the protection of the immense wealth we are possessed of in our great oyster beds of the Chesapeake and its tributaries.

It adds to the interest we have in the oyster, that only very lately, we believe, it has become an article of foreign export, in the shell, and so may become a source of boundless wealth if properly protected and cared for. A writer in *Land and Water*, an English publication, speaking of the feasibility of this mode of transportation, says to the editor of that journal: "Now what is most pertinent to your inquiry is this part of my statement. Towards the end of the season, prior to the freezing up of the bay (New Great South Bay, Long Island,) for winter, the inhabitants along the shore would either fish for or buy their stock of oysters for the winter, to last them until the spring; and they would keep them alive and fat in this way: For myself, I used to draw up fresh from the bay, half a load of sea-weed, and put it down in my cellar; make a bed of eighteen inches deep, and thereon place my ten or twelve bushels of oysters, and then cover them all around and over with sea-weed, eighteen inches to two feet thick or more, although I think eighteen inches was enough; and by this process, many a delicious stew for supper have I enjoyed from them through the severe winters. Now, sir, if they will keep for five or six months in the farmer's cellar by this means, why should they not be conveyed across the Atlantic, packed in sea-weed? There are difficulties in the way, but certainly not such as are insurmountable."

The quality, which is here remarked upon, of keeping alive and well and even growing fat out of the water, is one worthy to be noted. It is familiar enough to those familiar with oyster regions, but we have not before seen it mentioned as bearing on the trade in oysters. It may become one of importance, as suggested by this writer.

We well remember having, as a boy, the daily duty of feeding the oysters in the cellar, which we were the better reconciled to by the opportunity offered of taking toll. It was the yearly practice at "our house," just before winter, to send to the oyster grounds, a distance of fifteen miles, and bring home twenty to twenty-five bushels for a winter's supply. These were carefully packed on the bare floor in the cellar, with their mouths up, in compact mass, and covered thickly with fine hay. Every day their mess was prepared of water somewhat thickened with cornmeal and seasoned with salt. This was sprinkled by hand over the oysters, and trickling slowly down, would be supped with a noise distinctly heard by the listening ear. The oysters not only kept alive, but improved distinctly in flavor and quality.

According to Capt. Davidson's report our oyster beds are being rapidly destroyed by the process of dredging. There are in our waters, he says, "five hundred and sixty-three vessels, each having two dredges, that when filled weigh one hundred and fifty pounds each, making eleven hundred and twenty-six



harrows, dragged by vessels, some of nearly sixty tons burthen, under full sail, over the beds, night and day, without regard to the size and condition of the oyster. These commence dragging over the beds the first of September, and keep up until June, a grinding and attrition of a thousand oysters to every one that is taken, thus crushing out the life of the young," &c. He recommends, therefore, that "for the space of three years, dredging shall cease in the waters of Maryland (the length of time the oyster takes to come to maturity) and let the market be supplied by tong-men, which can easily be done. In the meantime, the oysters would be increasing with wonderful rapidity in the deep water not used by the tong-men, and at the expiration of the three years, let dredging be carried on to a limited extent; that is, confined to certain months, not exceeding six in the year."

In New York waters, as we learn from the communication above alluded to in *Land and Water*, the law strictly prohibits dredging by heavy penalties, and even the possession of a dredge, "as it was considered total destruction to the fishery." Let us hope that the Legislature will not fail to do what may be necessary to the protection of this great interest. We are sure that with Capt. Davidson it is in good hands. He should have all needful laws to work under.

#### Inspection of Fertilizers.

The Superintendent of Labour and Immigration, Dr. McPherson, in his late Report to the Legislature, urges again the matter of inspecting Fertilizers, other than Guano, in the city of Baltimore. His recommendation embraces, very properly, those manufactured elsewhere and brought here as well as the domestic manufacture. In making this recommendation he quotes the analyses of Northern fertilizers, which we published some time ago as made by Prof. Johnson, of Yale College, one of which was sold for \$28 per ton, and was worth only about \$3—and all of which, with, perhaps, a single exception, were far below the proper standard of value.

The trade in fertilizers is of great importance, and is estimated by millions. They have become a very large item of the yearly cost of farming, and have increased enormously the aggregate production of crops where they have been freely used. To listen, however, to the talk of farmers, it might be supposed that no one of them had made any net gain from their use. Their worthlessness to this and that one; the fair profit last year and failure this of the same article, are constant themes of complaint. That these complaints are too often well founded, and are owing in a great measure to fraudulent practice in the manufacture, cannot be doubted. After making every allowance for all other conceivable causes of failure, there can but be a large remainder attributable to the character of the article, and of the manufacturer. In this as in all other branches of business, there are people enough ready to practice fraud as they find opportunity. We hear indeed comparatively little of this direct fraud in our Baltimore market; it may be because steps have been seldom taken to discover them. We have seen how it is, from John-

son's investigation in the Northern market. In Great Britain, as we learn from the journals, actions at law are common for alleged frauds, and there is abundant evidence of a necessity for some sort of protection.

*The Irish Farmer's Gazette*, in an article on the subject, says: "How often do we not hear of the plaintiff in a lawsuit, stating that his whole crops, on which the support of himself and his family mainly depends, were lost to him because of the adulterated seeds or manures which had been palmed off upon him. In the columns of this journal we have over and over again published statements, showing the extent to which farmers are victimised in the adulteration of manures, seeds and feeding stuffs. Nothing is more certain than that enormous quantities of adulterated artificial manures are manufactured year after year, and therefore the purchasers of these worthless commodities must be numerous indeed."

Professor Voelcker, in a late lecture stated, that the practice of adulterating manures was extensively prevalent. He cautioned his hearers not to rely always on chemical analysis of a manure, because it was easy for fraudulent dealers to send cooked samples to the chemist. He instanced four cases of the kind which had recently occurred within his own knowledge. The samples sent to him were of excellent quality, and of course he reported favourably upon them; but the article, the bulk, sold on the faith of Dr. Voelcker's analysis and recommendation, was in every case vastly inferior to the specimen which formed the subject of his report.

And so it is, that any manufacturer can get a certificate from a reliable chemist that a certain sample presented for analysis indicates a compound of the best material. So far as this is worth anything, therefore, every one can give it in evidence of the character of that which he offers for sale. The trouble with the farmer lies in getting the assurance that what he buys is properly represented by the sample which has been submitted to the chemist. It is well known, indeed, that there are those engaged in the business of manufacturing these fertilizers who are in the highest degree to be relied on, and those farmers are fortunate who have such a knowledge of the character of these men that they can give them their confidence, and so escape the clutches of those of an opposite character. But it is the misfortune of the farming community at large, that few comparatively can have such assurance, and it is a matter therefore of the gravest concern how they are to be protected against continued loss to a very grievous extent—a loss involving not only the amount expended, but the profits of the year's labour.

It is for this reason that it is proposed to apply a judicious inspection law, and it is much to be regretted that so many of our manufacturers seem to think such a law in conflict with their interests. If it could be so framed and executed as to drive from the market all that is worthless, it would leave large space for the operations of honest manufacturers. It is useless to publish the law which is now proposed to the Legislature until it is enacted.

#### Book Table.

*Catalogues for 1870 received.*—R. Sinclair & Co., Baltimore, Md., Agricultural Implements. J. Sedgebeer, Painesville, Ohio, Crushing and Grinding Mills. Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N. Y., No. 1, Fruit Trees; No. 2, Ornamental Trees; No. 3, Hot-house Plants. Jno. Vanderbilt & Bros., N. York, Garden, Flower and Field Seeds. Henderson & Fleming, N. York, do.

*The Amateur Cultivator's Guide for 1870*, by Messrs. Washburn & Co., Boston, is on our table. It contains the usual amount of useful instruction to amateurs, and is gotten up in a style that makes it a handsome ornament for the drawing-room table.

*The World Almanac for 1870* is full of information, astronomical, political and miscellaneous, including list of important events in 1869. Published by the "World" newspaper, New York.

*Arthur's Home Magazine*, *Once A Month*, and *Children's Hour*, for February, have been received. From their absolute purity, Arthur's magazines are calculated to please the most fastidious readers. Address T. S. Arthur & Sons, Philadelphia.

*The Little Corporal*, for February, comes with flying colors, fighting against Wrong, and for the Good, the True, and the Beautiful. Published by Alfred L. Sewell & Co., Chicago, Ill.

Among our exchanges received in February, we notice the following possess particular merit:

Manufacturer and Builder, New York.  
American Educational Monthly, N. York.  
Hitchcock's Musical Magazine, do.  
Silver Tongue, New York.  
Howes' Musical Monthly, Boston.  
Medical Journal, Baltimore.  
Journal of Materia Medica, New Lebanon, New York.  
University Journal of Medicine, Philadelphia.

The National Publication Co. of Cincinnati have sent us some specimen pages of the "Medical Adviser," by Dr. Regin Thompson. We cannot form a correct opinion of what the book will be, until we see the whole of it, but if these specimen pages are a fair sample, we look for a work well adapted to family use.

THE "EXCELSIOR" POTATO.—Mr. J. N. Riddle, Manchester, N. H., advertises the Excelsior as the "Best Table Potato." The editor of the *Practical Farmer* says, "It is of the finest quality, having all the evidence of a first class potato for table use." We have tried them and agree with him.

#### Vetches.

BUNCOMBE Co., N. C., Jan. 15, 1870.

*Editors of American Farmer:*

GENTLEMEN: "Vetches" having been grown in Great Britain for many years, both for forage and as green manure, can you inform your readers whether any one in the United States has imported them; if so, their experience with regard to them?

Respectfully, T. C. H. D.

[Will some one of our subscribers give the desired information?—Ed.]

## Sunday Reading.

In regard to the distinctions subsisting among angels, we poor pilgrims of the earth are permitted to know little more than their names. For we know that some are called "Seraphim," from the vision of the prophet Isaiah, others "Cherubim," from the prophecy of Ezekiel, others "thrones," others "dominions," others "principalities," others "powers," from the Epistle of the Colossians; also others are named "powers," from the same Apostle to the Ephesians; others "arch-angels," from the same Apostle, and from the Epistle of the Apostle Jude; others, lastly, are named "angels," the most commonly mentioned in all the books of Scripture. The invariable opinion of learned men has been gathered from these nine appellations, that there exist nine distinct orders of angels, each order comprehending many thousands of angelic beings, as Daniel reports (vii. 10). "Thousand thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him," and as Job agrees in saying, "Is there any number of His hosts?"

Our Lord chose that time to die, when the Passover was slain; that time wherein Adam was created, the sixth day of the week at evening. He chose that time for His body to rest in the grave, and for his soul to rest in Paradise, wherein His Father rested from all the great work of the creation, the seventh day of the week: and He chose that day to rise again, which His Father chose to begin the creation, the first day of the week; that the same day might bear the inscription of the creation, and of the restitution of the world; and that, as in that day the Lord God brought light out of darkness, so this light, the light that "enlighteneth every man that cometh into the world," should arise from the land of darkness, the grave.

Death is ordered to be punished by death, not because one is equivalent to the other, for that would be expiation and not punishment; nor is death always an equivalent for death; the execution of a needy, decrepit assassin, is a poor satisfaction for the murder of a nobleman, in the bloom of his youth, and full enjoyment of his friends, his honors, and his fortune. But the reason, upon which this sentence is grounded, seems to be that this is the highest penalty that man can inflict, and tends most to the security of mankind, by removing one murderer from the earth, and setting a dreadful example to deter others; so that this grand instance proceeds from other principles, than those of retaliation.

Venturing on the borders of danger is much akin to presumptuous carelessness. A man goes on pretty well, till he ventures within the atmosphere of danger; but the atmosphere of danger infatuates him. The ship is got within the influence of the vortex, and will not obey the helm. David was sitting in this atmosphere on the house-top and was ensnared and fell.

Faith is apt to sleep, and then sin awakes.

## The Fireside.

### The Ides of March.

The *Ides*, in the Roman Calendar, were the fifteenth of March, May, July, and October, and the thirteenth of the other months.

The word itself is derived, according to some, from the Latin word *idus*, from *iduate*, to divide, the *ides* dividing the month into two nearly equal parts; but from the fact of eight days in the month being commonly, though improperly, called *ides*, the correct derivation of the word is probably from the Greek *idein*, to see, referring to the days of the month when the waxing moon is visible.

The historical event that gave celebrity to the Ides of March was the death of Julius Cæsar, an event important both in its immediate effects and in its having furnished the material for one of Shakspeare's greatest tragedies. There is nowhere to be found a purer specimen of Rhetoric than Antony's speech over Cæsar's body, or his eulogy of Brutus, in which he says

"His life was gentle; and the elements  
So mix'd in him, that Nature might stand up,  
And say to all the world, 'This was a man.'"

The circumstances attending Cæsar's death, are too well known to be rehearsed, but with their recollection we involuntarily recall the image of his indomitable will. Neither the entreaties of Calphurnia, nor the warning to "Beware the Ides of March" could swerve him from his unalterable purpose to go to the capitol. He hesitated at first, but having once resolved, he was

"Constant as the Northern Star,  
Of whose true, fix'd and resting quality,  
There is no fall in the firmament."

He went, but only to fall, in the noon-day of his glory, uttering his expiring reproach of "Et tu Brute," which has echoed through the hills and valleys of time to every land where history has sounded his fame.

And thus through a succession of ages has the Ides of March been a day familiar to students of history as one of the most important in the Roman Calendar.

For the "American Farmer."

### The Poet quoted by St. Paul.

MESSENGERS. EDITORS: As a prelude to my first essay on agriculture in your new volume of "the old American Farmer," allow me to ask the publication of the enclosed—which was copied for me by a little boy who was "named for" a gentleman of Aratus' profession, very well and favorably known by most of your subscribers in Baltimore as well as the Eastern Shore of Maryland. This (I hope) will inspire him to add to my mite a contribution to the agricultural literature of Maryland. I refer to James Bordley of Queen Anne's county, Eastern Shore of Maryland.

DAVID STEWART, M. D.

Port Penn, Del., January, 1870.

### THE POET QUOTED BY ST. PAUL.

Aratus, born at Soli, near Tarsus, lived about the time of the first Punic War, B. C. 250, and adopted medicine as his profession. He completed his education at Athens, and spent the latter part of his days attached to

the court of Antigonus second of Macedonia, under whose patronage he produced an astronomical poem, entitled "The Phenomena," not an original composition, but a metrical version of a treatise now lost, by a Greek of the Alexandrian School. It was designated as a popular guide book in the knowledge of the heavens. St. Paul undoubtedly had reference to Aratus, when he observed, "In Him we live, and move, and have our being: as certain also of your own poets have said, for we are also His offspring." The sentiment quoted occurs near the beginning of "The Phenomena":

"Jove fills the heavens, the earth, the sea, the air,  
We feel his spirit moving here and everywhere,  
And we his offspring are. He, ever good,  
Daily provides for man his daily food;  
Orbains the seasons by his signs on high,  
Studding with gems of light the azure canopy.  
What time with plough and spade to break the soil,  
That plenteous stores may bless the reaper's toil;  
What time to plant and prune the vine, he shews  
And hangs the purple clusters on its boughs.  
To him the first, the last, all homage yield,  
Our Father wonderful, our help, our shield."

### To the Winds.

Ye viewless Minstrels of the sky!  
I marvel not, in times gone by,  
That ye were deified:  
For, even in this later day,  
To me oft has your power, or play  
Unearthly thoughts supplied.

Awful your power! when, by your might,  
You heave the wild waves, crested white,  
Like mountains in your wrath;  
Ploughing between them valleys deep,  
Which, to the seamen roused from sleep,  
Yawn, like Death's op'ning path!

Graceful your play! when round the bower  
Where Beauty culls Spring's loveliest flower  
To wreath her dark locks there,  
Your gentlest whispers lightly breathe  
The leaves between, flit round that wreath  
And stir his silken hair.

Still, thoughts like these are but of earth,  
And you can give far loftier birth;—  
Ye come!—we know not whence!  
Ye go!—can mortals trace your flight?  
All imperceptible to sight,  
Though audible to sense.

The Sun,—his rise and set we know;  
The Sea,—we mark his ebb and flow;  
The Moon,—her wax and wane;  
The Stars,—man knows their courses well,  
The Comet's vagrant paths can tell;  
But you his search disdain.

Ye restless, homeless, shapeless things!  
Who mock all our imaginings,  
Like spirits in a dream;  
What epithet can words supply  
Unto the bard who takes such high,  
Unmanageable theme?

But one,—to me when Fancy stirs  
My thoughts, ye seem Heaven's Messengers,  
Who leave no path untrod;  
And when, as now, at midnight's hour  
I hear your voice in all its power,  
It seems the Voice of God. BARTON.

The following dialogue is said to have taken place between Sir Walter Scott and his attendant, Tom Purdie:

TOM.—"Them are fine novels of yours, Sir Walter; they are just invaluable to me."  
SIR WALTER.—"I'm glad to hear it, Tom."  
TOM.—"Yes, Sir, for when I've been out all day, hard at work, and come home very tired, and take up one of your novels, I'm asleep directly."

Tom should have read the American Farmer, which was established just about that time (1819.)





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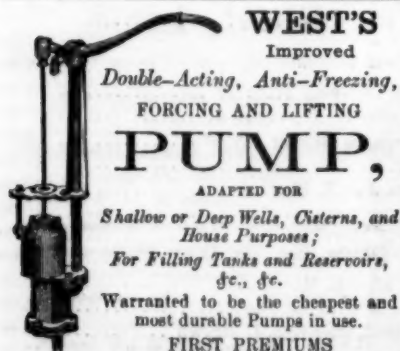
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I am breeding thorough bred Horses, the Imported Percheron Norman Horses, and the Black Hawk Branch of the Morgan Stock, for sale. Also Pure bred Short Horn Cattle, Chester White and Albemarle Improved Swine, (the latter a cross of Woburn and Chester Whites,) and Braham Fowls for sale.

oct-17

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STEAM FIRE ENGINES,

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Flouring Mill Machinery, Cotton Screws, Shafting, Pulleys and Hangers.

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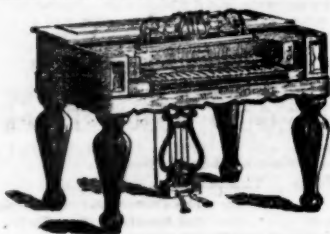
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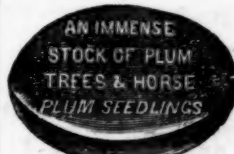
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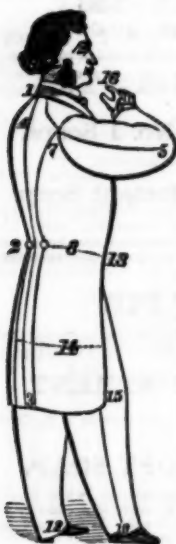
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For general toilet purposes, for healing skin diseases, and for warding off contagious diseases.

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The disinfecting and healing properties of the Carbolic Acid contained in these compounds, are recognized by the entire medical profession.

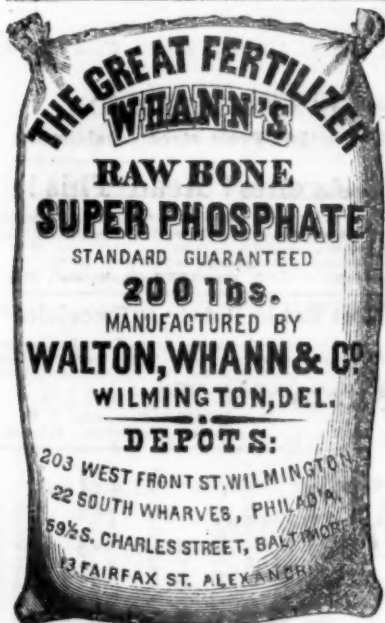
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Orders filled entire, and charged at the lowest market rates.

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FOR ALL GARDEN, TRUCK AND FREE SEED OR FERTILIZERS, THE BEST. The most simple, compact, largest, easiest regulated, lightest and lightest running, cheapest. NO GRABBING, NO SLIDING. Sows properly, always evenly, and in open right, either SEEDS or FERTILIZERS, any thickness. No. 1, 5 lbs. Seed, \$12; No. 2, 12 q'ts Seed, or 25 lbs. Fertilizers, \$20. S. L. ALLEN & CO., mar-17 Forrest Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

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Crave Cour, Houdan, Buff Cochins, Silver Spangled Hamburg, Black Spanish, extra fine, White Leghorn, Grey Dorkings, Light Brahmas, Golden Seabright Bantams, Siberian Bantams, Bronze Turkeys.

Eggs of all kinds for hatching in the season, carefully boxed and delivered at the Express Office.

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